

REMARKS

There are at least five substantial differences between the present invention and the cited prior art references: (1) the protrusions are formed on a radial inner surface of the enclosure and, in some embodiments, on the top cover of the enclosure; (2) the protrusions extend axially toward the disks; (3) the protrusions are axially closer to the disks than the radial inner surface of the enclosure; (4) the protrusions are made up of two, radially spaced-apart segments; (5) the geometry of the segments (e.g., rectangular, bent tabs, convex indentation). Accordingly, each of the independent claims has been rewritten to include one or more of these differences to further distinguish the prior art.

For example, claim 1 now states that the local magnetic field generator “extends axially toward the radial surface of the magnetic disk such that the local magnetic field generator is axially closer to the magnetic disk than the surface of the enclosure.” The primary cited reference, *Bogdanski*, only has radial finger-like projections 62 (Figure 2) that are radially interposed between its disks. Projections 62 do not extend axially toward the radial surfaces of the disks. The *Tielemans* reference discloses only a box-like enclosure, but does not provide any form of a local magnetic field generator, and certainly not one that is axially closer to its disks than the surface of its enclosure. The *Araki* and *Ahmad* references are merely cited for material selection. However, since *Bogdanski* fails to provide the fundamental structural elements, those references are inconsequential. Thus, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 4 was rewritten to with several new elements, including pole pieces that are “radially spaced apart from each other and extending axially from an interior surface of the enclosure case toward the radial surface of the disk-like storage medium.” Like claim 1, claim 4 requires the axial extension of the pole pieces specifically toward the radial surface of the disk. However, claim 4 also requires that the pole pieces be radially spaced apart from each other. None of the cited prior art references show or describe any type of singular protrusion, much less a plurality of pole pieces that are radially spaced apart. Consequently, claims 4 and 5 are allowable over the prior art.

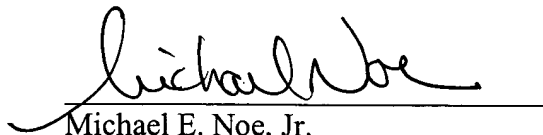
Rewritten independent claim 6 requires the foregoing elements and also requires that the enclosure have “a surface that is substantially parallel to the radial surface of the magnetic disk.” The combination of parallel surfaces and a pair of protrusions extending axially from the surface of the enclosure such that the protrusions are axially closer to the magnetic disk than the surface of the enclosure, is unique. The protrusions are also required to be radially spaced apart from each other, as in claim 4. Thus, claims 6-9 are now in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims contain the new elements of the previous claims, but were even more narrowly tailored to the various embodiments of the present invention. For example, claims 10-13 are directed to the embodiment of Figures 2 and 3 by adding, “a pair of generally rectangular, radially spaced-apart protrusions.” Claims 14-15 are written for the embodiment of Figures 4-5. In addition to the previously-described radial and axial elements, these claims require the protrusions to be on the “top cover,” and for them to be “bent from the surface of the top cover axially toward the radial surface of the disk-like storage medium, such that the pair of protrusions are axially closer to the radial surface than the surface of the top cover.”

Claim 16 further adds the top cover requirement and that “the convex portion comprises an indentation having inclined segments that are formed at acute angles with respect to the radial surface of the top cover, and a planar offset segment that is parallel to the radial surfaces of the top cover and the magnetic disk.” This very specific geometry and structural detail is not described or even suggested by any reference or combination of references. Finally, method claim 18 also was amended to incorporate many of the novel features of the present invention, including the axial, radial, and parallel requirements, as well as the radial space between the segments of the protrusion.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No extension of time is believed to be required. However, in the event that an extension of time is required, please charge that extension fee and any other required fees to **Hitachi Global Storage Technologies Deposit Account Number 50-2587.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael E. Noe, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael E. Noe, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,975
BRACEWELL & PATTERSON, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 61389
Houston, Texas 77208-1389
(512) 472-7800

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS